

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 026747

FOLLOWING REPEAT BONN 2100 ACTIONSECSTATE INFO KINSHASA
BANGUI BUJUMBURA KIGALI LUSAKA LUANDA 08 FEB

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 02100

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, CG

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S VISIT TO FRG

REF: KINSHASA 346

1. FOLLOWING HIS HOLIDAY IN BADEN BADEN, PRESIDENT
MOBUTU CAME TO BONN ON JAN 31 FOR A SHORT OFFICIAL
VISIT. HE MET WITH PRESIDENT HEINEMANN AND CHANCELLOR
BRANDT. HIS CHEF DE CABINET, BISENGIMANA, WAS ALSO HERE
FOR TALKS WITH FONOFF REPS.

2. ACCORDING TO THE FONOFF DIRECTOR FOR NORTHERN AND
WESTERN AFRICA, THE VISIT TOOK PLACE IN A GOOD ATMOS-
PHERE AND THE DISCUSSIONS DEALT ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY WITH
BILATERAL RELATIONS. MOBUTU MADE CLEAR THAT HE WAS
INTERESTED IN EXPANDING ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH CER-
TAIN WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THE
FRG AND FRANCE, IN THE INTEREST OF REDUCING ZAIRE'S
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ECONOMIC DEPENDENCY ON BELGIUM.

3. MOBUTU DEFENDED A POLICY OF "AFRICANIZATION" BY SAYING THAT IT WAS INEVITABLE AND DESIRABLE THAT ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE SHOULD FOLLOW ON THE HEELS OF POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE. AT THE SAME TIME, HE ASSURED THE GERMANS THAT THIS DID NOT MEAN HOSTILITY TOWARDS FOREIGN INVESTMENTS. ON THE CONTRARY, ZAIRE WANTED TO ENCOURAGE INVESTMENTS IN WHICH THERE WAS AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF LOCAL PARTICIPATION.

4. OUR FONOFF CONTACT SAID THAT IT REMAINED UNCLEAR WHAT THE ZAIRIANS UNDERSTOOD BY PARTICIPATION. THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE CLARIFIED IN FURTHER DISCUSSIONS. FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE TWO SIDES HAD AGREED TO ESTABLISH A JOINT COMMISSION WHICH WOULD MEET SEMI-ANNUALLY AND WOULD PROBABLY CONVENE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN KINSHASA SOMETIME THIS SPRING.

5. THE GERMANS WERE WELL IMPRESSED WITH MOBUTU, WHOM THEY FOUND TO BE REALISTIC IN HIS APPRAISAL OF THE POSSIBILITIES OF COOPERATION AND FRIENDLY IN HIS ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE FRG AND WESTERN COUNTRIES GENERALLY. OUR CONTACT MENTIONED THAT MOBUTU HAD SAID THAT ZAIRE WAS TRYING TO STRIKE A BALANCE IN ITS RELATIONS BETWEEN EAST AND WEST WHICH, TAKEN IN CONTEXT, SEEMS TO IMPLY THAT HE FELT SOME ADDITIONAL WEIGHT NEEDED NOW TO BE ADDED TO THE WESTERN SIDE.
HILLENBRAND UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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